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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/525,335

09/19/2005

Noriyuki Kanno

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EXAMINER

BEAUCHAINE, MARK J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3653

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/03/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/525,335	Applicant(s) KANNO ET AL.	
	Examiner MARK J. BEAUCHAINE	Art Unit 3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/18/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number 4,784,274 by Mori et al ("Mori") in view of Patent Number 3,266,060 by Springer ("Springer") in view of Patent Number US 6,625,741 B1 by Post et al ("Post") in view of Patent Number 4,474,455 by Hirakura et al ("Hirakura"). The paper discriminating device disclosed by Mori comprises conveyor 6 that transports papers inserted from inlet 1 along a passageway past inlet sensor PIL to stand-by position 3b (see Figure 1), validation sensor CL that detects magnetic patterns of said papers to produce detection signals (see column 3, lines 24-39), stacking device 11 that includes stack sensor SW1 and stows paper in said stand-by position into accumulation chamber 12, trigger element SW1, and drive controller 40 that receives said detection signals, validates said papers and provides both said conveyor and stacking device with drive signals (see Figure 7 and column 8, lines 25-58). Said controller comprises a timer for counting time elapse since said trigger element is turned on (see Figure 11b and column 11, lines 47-57), and operates to rotate said conveyor to transport a genuine

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paper to said stand-by position and to rotate said conveyor in the adverse direction to return non-genuine paper (see column 5, lines 38-53).

Mori fails to disclose said trigger element being turned on by a cover opening operation. Springer teaches an article accepting and processing device comprising trigger element 71 that is turned on by the opening of cover 32 (see Figure 2 and 3, and column 5, lines 5-39) for the purpose activating said device. Said cover is mounted adjacent to inlet 30. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the cover/trigger configuration of Springer into the device of Mori for the purpose of activating said device.

Mori fails to disclose said trigger element being connected to a battery. The Applicant concedes that "batteries are provided in validators" for the purpose of powering said validators (see Applicant's specification page 6, lines 1-6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the battery conceded by the Applicant into the device of Mori for the purpose of powering said device.

Mori fails to disclose a self-holding circuit. Post teaches a paper processing device comprising self-holding circuit 1256/1258 that is connected between battery 134 and drive controller 120 (see Figures 2, 4 and 5) for the purpose of maintaining an operating state of said device. Said circuit comprises first switching element 1258 and second switching element/thyristor 1256 connected to said first switching element, and is switched from an inactive to an active condition by trigger element 180 to supply electric power from said battery to conveyor 10. It would have been obvious to one of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the self-holding circuit configuration of Post into the device of Mori for the purpose of maintaining the operating state of said device.

Mori fails to disclose a shutoff circuit. Hirakura teaches a document processing device comprising shutoff circuit 14 that receives a control signal from controller 11 (see column 6, line 62 through column 7, line 9) to switch self-holding circuit 16 between active and inactive conditions (see column 3, lines 11 and 12) for the purpose of selectively controlling the operating state of said device. The passage of dark current through an electronic circuit is an inherent condition when said optical sensor is deactivated. Accordingly, when said self-holding circuit is switched to an inactive condition all power except dark current is interrupted through said circuit. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the shutoff circuit configuration of Hirakura into the device of Mori for the purpose of selectively controlling the operating state of said device.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 18 August 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant's comments related to the telephonic interview of 29 July 2008 (see Applicant's arguments (hereinafter "arguments") at page 6, lines 6-21) are acknowledged. Despite the Applicant's confusion regarding the Examiner's

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interpretation of the above-mentioned Springer reference, the Examiner has at no time indicated that Springer is non-analogous to Mori.

In response to the Applicant's argument that Mori and Springer are non-analogous art (see arguments at page 6, line 22 through page 7, line 16), both the apparatus of Mori and Springer are capable of processing both papers of value (*e.g.*, valid currency by the Mori apparatus and recyclable and vendable waste by the Springer apparatus) and non-valuable papers (*e.g.*, counterfeit currency by the Mori apparatus and non-recycled papers by the Springer apparatus). Thus, there is no distinction between Mori and Springer in regards to a value/non-value comparison of papers inserted into said apparatus. Furthermore, both the apparatus of Mori and Springer are electrically powered and accept articles via an inlet into which unwanted matter can be inserted resulting in damage to the apparatus. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would be concerned with addressing the same problems of both apparatus. Specifically, of minimizing the costs of unwanted power consumption, actuating the apparatus to process papers and restricting unwanted debris from the inlet of the apparatus. Accordingly, said above rejection STANDS.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARK J. BEAUCHAINE whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patrick H. Mackey/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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mjb